

the influences of Mr. Aird and William Buys, an early teacher and the founder, owner and editor of the Wasatch Wave newspaper. Mr. Aird had taught in the one-room East Ward School, and then attended the University of Utah, completing a normal course.

When he returned to Wasatch County he felt that the time was ripe to do away with one-room schools, and through his influence the graded school movement began in Wasatch County in a rock structure with eight classrooms in two stories.



The old building of the Hilder Central School where Henry Aird developed the graded school system in Wasatch County during the 1890's.

Just prior to this forward-moving step in education, however, another development had occurred in the schools of the valley. This was the period of Church schools.

As early as 1860 there were Protestant groups that established schools in "Mormon Utah." Some were designed to "convert" the Mormons away from their faith, while others were established for non-members of the Church who had settled in the area and who did not like their children to attend schools that were largely conducted in Mormon church buildings.